

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : AC/DPD

DATE: 21 November 1961

FROM : DDPASST

SUBJECT: The Attached Draft Memorandum to the Deputy Secretary of Defense

1. Honest, I've tried, but I cannot rewrite paragraphs 1a and 1b in a manner that will satisfy Mr. Bissell and yet not do violence to the principle I think you're trying to establish. I know we have discussed this several times, but it slips away from me as soon as I hang up the phone. As I understand it, what we're trying to say is this: while [REDACTED] is deployed but unemployed, we will assist by providing training advice and assistance on cover matters. At such time as an operational requirement arises in an area where a [REDACTED] detachment is deployed, a decision must be made whether the [REDACTED] unit or some other unit, or both, will undertake to fulfill the requirement. If the [REDACTED] unit can fulfill the requirement through its basic TO & E, well and good. If for some reason, however, a unit of some other organization (namely us) is given the requirement, then we should feel free to call upon the materiel and personnel resources of [REDACTED] units. This is my comprehension of paragraph 1a.

2. As for 1b, this says to me that having decided fill a given operational requirement through a selected mechanism [REDACTED] or otherwise), we may at some point because of escalation have to change the decision originally made. Thus it may be possible that an operation that has been purely [REDACTED] during the first stage might change to an Agency or JCS operational task force at a later stage. The point is that it should be possible to make these management changes without getting into long jurisdictional arguments when speed is required.

3. I am sorry to bore you with this possibly inaccurate recital, but I set it down more to clarify my thoughts than to change yours. If I do understand the concept correctly, I will on a word from you try again to construct some language acceptable to Mr. Bissell. It might be easier, however, for you to rewrite paragraphs 1a and 1b than to attempt to educate me in my present obtuse state.

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